

A Venetian blind

The present invention relates to a Venetian blind comprising at least two vertically expanding ladder members, each ladder member comprising at least a first vertical member placed on a first side of at least one carrier member, and which by a plurality of vertically spaced ladder rungs is connected to at least one other vertical member, which is placed on another, opposite side of the at least one carrier member, a plurality of horizontally arranged cross slats each having a longitudinal axis and each being supported on each of the ladder members by at least one of the ladder rungs between the two vertical members.

Such a Venetian blind is known from CH 429108, wherein said ladder member is carried by the carrier member by means of two vertical members fixed on a fixing device of the carrier member by means of at least one projection and at least one bridge piece. Thus the fixing of the ladder member is done by guiding one of the vertical members of the ladder member over the fixing device, whereupon this vertical member on the other side of the fixing device is fixed to the other vertical member. This implies that one of the vertical members must be of such length that said guiding over the fixing device is possible, and that one of the vertical members must be longer than the other vertical member.

In EP 0098333 A1 both vertical members have been guided over the carrier member from each side of this, the ladder member being fixed on the carrier member by snap fastening of a slotted sleeve over the

vertical members and the carrier member. Similar to the previous publication, the vertical members must both be of such length that the guiding over the fixing device is possible.

5 U.S. 6,279,642 B1 discloses a fixing of the ladder member by mounting balls at the ends of the vertical members, and the balls may then be fixed in a holder on the carrier member.

Usually ladder members are manufactured by 10 cutting an endless ladder member tape. Therefore, subsequent adjustment of the ladder member is necessary in any case in the art, because a certain length of the at least one vertical member is necessary. In CH 429108 and EP 0098333 A1 it is 15 necessary to remove at least the upper ladder rung in order to provide a vertical member having a length by which it is possible to let the carrier member carry the ladder member. Furthermore, in CH 429108 one of the vertical members must be cut after removal of at 20 least the upper ladder rung. In U.S. 6,279,642 B1 the balls at the ends of the vertical members must be mounted after cutting the endless ladder member tape.

These subsequent adjustments are difficult, material-consuming and time-consuming when 25 manufacturing the Venetian blind, in which, aside from said cuttings, a thorough, tolerance sensitive measurement of the threads must be carried out. Assembling the Venetian blind is also difficult and time-consuming because of the complex mounting of the 30 upper part of the ladder member on the fixing device of the carrier member.

The object of the present invention is to present a Venetian blind of the above-mentioned kind,

wherein a ladder member provided by cutting an endless ladder member tape, in an easy and uncomplicated way, may be caused to be carried by a carrier member.

5 With reference hereto, the Venetian blind of the invention is characterized in that each of the at least two ladder members in at least one of their ladder rungs is carried by the at least one carrier member.

10 The use of at least one of the ladder rungs for fixing of the ladder member implies that, immediately following the provision of the ladder member by cutting an endless ladder member tape, the ladder member may at once be connected to the carrier 15 member, without subsequent adjustment being necessary. In this way, the risk of mismounting, as well as material consumption, manufacturing time and manufacturing costs are reduced. In addition to this, a fixed distance to the ladder rung to carry the 20 upper cross slat is defined, for which reason the Venetian blind of the invention may be used to easily provide a number of homogeneous Venetian blinds.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the carrier member comprises at least two fixing devices 25 for fixing a corresponding number of ladder members.

In a further preferred embodiment, the Venetian blind comprises adjustment means for adjustment of the at least one carrier member for adjustment of the tilting of each of the cross slats around the 30 longitudinal axis of the cross slats. In this way it is possible for the user to adjust the passage of light through the blind, while the advantages associated with the easy assembly are maintained.

In a further preferred embodiment the at least two ladder members are fixed on the at least one carrier member, the upper ladder rung of each of the at least two ladder members being fixed on each of 5 the at least two fixing devices. In this way, the ladder member is easily fixed to the carrier member.

In a further preferred embodiment of the invention, each of the upper ladder rungs of the ladder members is fixed in the at least one carrier 10 member by means of a clip snap fastened over the carrier member. In an easy and simple way this provides a durable fixing of the upper ladder rung.

In a further preferred embodiment of the invention, the ladder rung is secured by the clip 15 pressing the upper ladder rung against the carrier member, and preferably the clip is pressing the upper ladder rung against the carrier member in substantially its entire length. Such fixing may easily be carried out, and at low costs.

20 In yet a further preferred embodiment, the ladder rung exits the clip through gaps so narrow that they prevent the joints between the vertical members and the upper ladder rung from being drawn past the clip. Thus a more durable securing of the 25 upper ladder rung is obtained, without there being a need for great compressive forces on this.

In a further preferred embodiment, along part of the circumference of the carrier member at least one groove exists for receiving at least one of each 30 of the ladder rungs of the ladder members, whereby the at least one ladder rung during mounting may be guided into place in the groove, just as the cross motions of the ladder rung in the fixing device are

reduced in the finished product.

In yet a further embodiment, the fixing device consists of moulded plastic, making it possible to produce a high-quality fixing device at low costs.

5 In a further embodiment, each ladder member is carried in more than one ladder rung, whereby a stronger and more durable connection between the ladder member and the carrier member may be obtained.

10 In another aspect of the invention, a method for mounting each of the at least two vertically expanding ladder members to the carrier member when mounting a Venetian blind is provided, wherein at least one of each of the ladder rungs of the at least two ladder members is guided over the carrier member, 15 so as to be carried by this. When this method is used for assembling the Venetian blind of the invention, a high-quality Venetian blind is obtained easily and at low costs.

Each of the ladder rungs of the at least two 20 ladder members may at the guiding over the carrier member advantageously be received in the groove of the clip. In this way the ladder rung is secured well to the carrier member.

In the following, the invention will be 25 explained in further detail by means of examples of embodiments with reference to the schematic drawing, wherein

FIG. 1 shows a perspective view of a Venetian blind;

30 FIG. 2 shows a detail of the Venetian blind according to FIG. 1 of a fixing device before mounting a clip for the fixing of a ladder cord; and

FIG. 3 shows the fixing device according to

FIG. 2 after mounting the clip for fixing of the ladder cord.

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a Venetian blind 1 according to the invention in an assembled condition. The Venetian blind 1 comprises a carrier member in the shape of a crossbar 2, the carrier member of the shown embodiment comprising two fixing devices formed as ladder cord mountings 7, each carrying a ladder member or a ladder cord 3. In the shown embodiment, the ladder cord comprises two vertical members, namely a first and a second vertical cord 4 connected by means of a number of ladder rungs 5, 11. In the shown embodiment according to the invention, each of the ladder rungs 5 are manufactured from two thinner cords in pairs, carrying a number of cross slats 6, thus expanding between the two ladder cords 3. The cross slats 6 may, through the ladder cord mountings 7 and the crossbar 2, be adjusted around the longitudinal axis 20 of the cross slats 6 by means of an adjustment means comprising an adjustment rod 10. When the user turns the adjustment rod 10, the turning movement is transferred to the crossbar 2 making it possible to vary the amount of light passing through the Venetian blind 1. The means for adjustment may also be in the shape of a cord drive, wherein an endless cord is guided over the crossbar 2, the cord, just as the adjustment rod, hanging at the side of the Venetian blind 1. The turning movement of the crossbar 2 is obtained by the user pulling one of the two cords of the cord drive.

FIG. 2 and 3 illustrate a sectional view of one of the ladder cord mountings 7 before and after

mounting, respectively, of the ladder cord 3 on this. The ladder cord 3 is manufactured by cutting an endless ladder cord to a length substantially corresponding to the height of the Venetian blind 1.

5 Then the upper ladder rung 11 of the ladder cord is introduced into the groove 8, whereupon a clip 9 is guided down over the upper ladder rung 11, fixing it to the ladder cord mounting 7, see FIG. 2. The mounting of the clip 9 on the ladder cord mounting 7

10 may be done manually or mechanically. The fixing of the upper ladder rung 11 is done by each end of the clip 9, after mounting, squeezing down over each end of the upper ladder rung 11. In this way the upper ladder rung 11 is secured by the two ends of the clip

15 9 and at the same time being held in place in the ladder cord mounting 7, the two joints between the upper ladder rung 11 and the vertical cords 4 not being able to pass through the gaps between the ends of the clip 9 and the ladder cord mounting 7, because

20 the joints are thicker than the upper ladder rung 11.

The Venetian blind of the invention may have other designs than those mentioned. For example, the fixing device of the shown embodiment is manufactured separately from the crossbar; however, it may also be

25 manufactured integral with this. In addition, the carrier member does not necessarily comprise a crossbar, but may, for example, be in two or more pieces. The Venetian blind may be manufactured to be non-adjustable.

30 Additionally, the fixing of the ladder members of the at least one carrier member may for example also be made by means of a projection and a bridge piece, by means of a slotted sleeve or by means of

gluing. The fixing may also be made by one or more ladder rungs hanging on at least one hook, which thus makes up the fixing device(s) of the carrier member.

The word fixing also comprises solutions,
5 wherein the ladder rung is movable in the fixing, for example in a construction as in the shown embodiment, the upper ladder rung, however, not being fastened by the clip, but instead, as described, being secured solely by the joints between the upper ladder rung
10 and the vertical members, because of their thickness not being able to pass through the gap between the ends of the clip and the ladder cord mounting.

P A T E N T C L A I M S

1. A Venetian blind (1) comprising at least two vertically expanding ladder members (3), each ladder member (3) comprising at least a first vertical member (4) placed on a first side of at least one carrier member (2), and which by a plurality of vertically spaced ladder rungs (5, 11) is connected to at least one other vertical member (4) placed on another, opposite side of the at least one carrier member (2), a plurality of horizontally arranged cross slats (6) each having a longitudinal axis and each being supported on each of the ladder members (3) by at least one of the ladder rungs (5) between the two vertical members (4), characterized in that each of the at least two ladder members (3) in at least one of their ladder rungs (5, 11) is carried by the at least one carrier member (2).

2. A Venetian blind (1) according to claim 1, characterized in that the carrier member (2) comprises at least two fixing devices (7) for fixing a corresponding number of ladder members (3).

3. A Venetian blind (1) according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that it further comprises adjustment means (10) for adjustment of the at least one carrier member (2) for adjustment of the tilting of each of the cross slats (6) around the longitudinal axis of the cross slats (6).

4. A Venetian blind (1) according to claim 2 or 3, characterized in that the at least two ladder members (3) are fixed on the at least one carrier member (2), the upper ladder rung (11) of

each of the at least two ladder members (3) being fixed on each of the at least two fixing devices (7).

5. A Venetian blind (1) according to one of the claims 1 to 4, characterized in that 5 the ladder rungs (5, 11) of the ladder members (3) are fixed on the at least one carrier member (2) by means of a clip (9) snap fastened over the carrier member (2).

6. A Venetian blind (1) according to claim 5, 10 characterized in that the ladder rung (5, 11) is secured by the clip (9) pressing the ladder rung (5, 11) against the carrier member (2), and preferably the clip (9) is pressing the upper ladder rung (11) against the carrier member (2) in 15 substantially its entire length.

7. A Venetian blind (1) according to claim 5 or 6, characterized in that the ladder rung (5, 11) exits the clip (9) through gaps so narrow that they prevent the joints between the 20 vertical members (4) and the fixed ladder rung (5, 11) from being drawn past the clip (9).

8. A Venetian blind (1) according to one of the claims 1 to 7, characterized in that along part of the circumference of the at least one 25 carrier member (2) at least one groove (8) exists for receiving one of each of the ladder rungs (11) of the ladder members (3).

9. A Venetian blind (1) according to one of the claims 1 to 8, characterized in that 30 the fixing devices (7) are manufactured from moulded plastic.

10. A Venetian blind according to one of the claims 1 to 9, characterized in that

each of the ladder members (3) is carried in at least two ladder rungs (5, 11).

11. Method for mounting each of the at least two vertically expanding ladder members (3) to the carrier member (2) when mounting a Venetian blind (1) according to one of the claims 1 to 10, wherein at least one of each of the ladder rungs (5, 11) of the at least two ladder members (3) is guided over the carrier member (2) so as to be carried by this.

10 12. Method according to claim 11, characterized in that, when being guided over the carrier member (2), each of the ladder rungs (5, 11) of the at least two ladder members (3) is received in the groove (8) of the clip 15 (9).

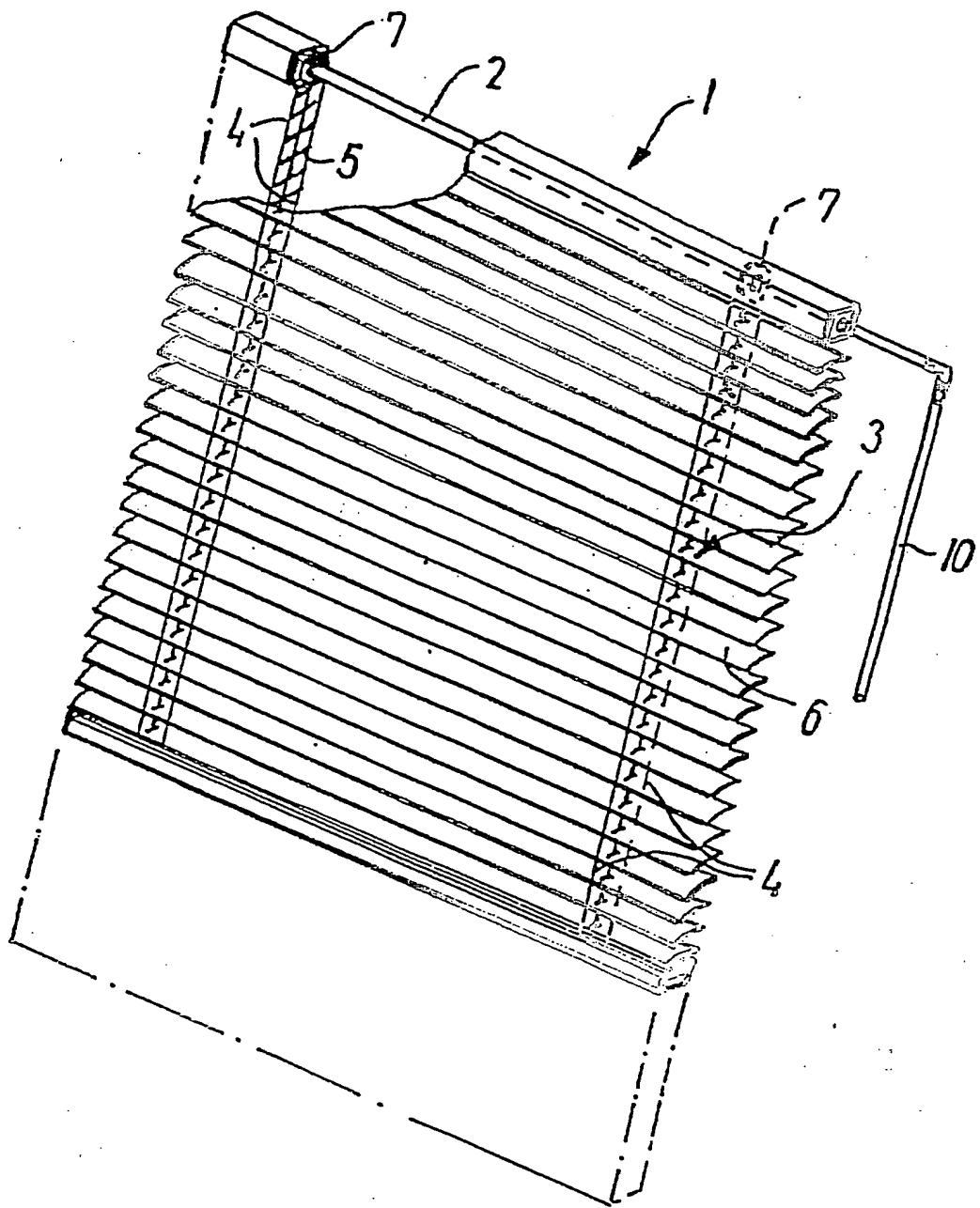


FIG. I

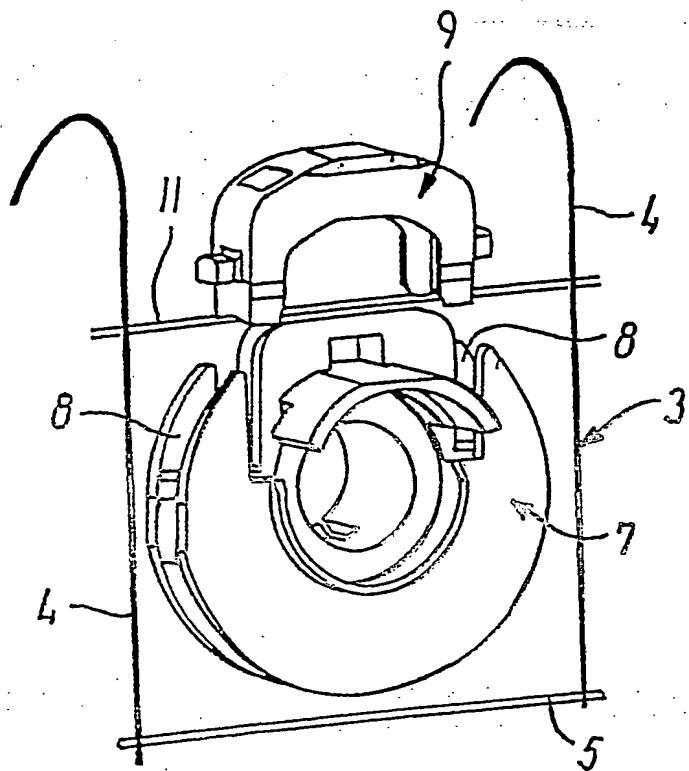


FIG.2

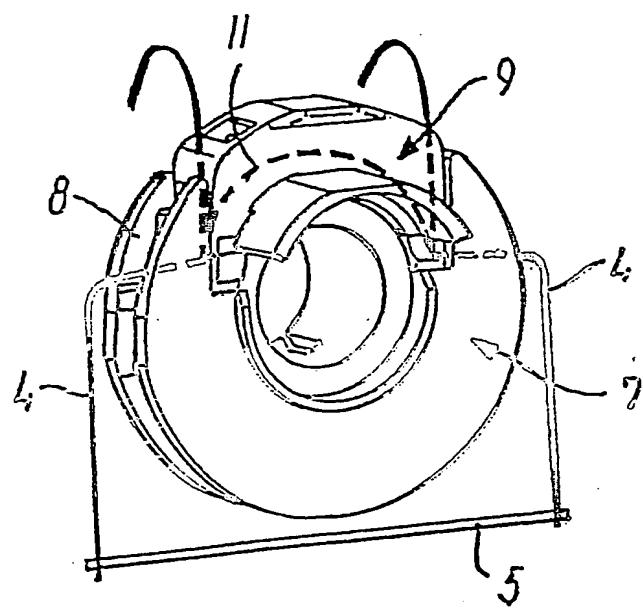


FIG.3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/DK2004/000056

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 E06B9/303 E06B9/322		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 E06B		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	CH 429 108 A (HUNTER DOUGLAS) 31 January 1967 (1967-01-31) cited in the application the whole document -----	1,11
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.
* Special categories of cited documents :		
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance		
E earlier document but published on or after the international filing date		
L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)		
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		
T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention		
X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone		
Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.		
& document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search		Date of mailing of the international search report
14 May 2004		25/05/2004
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax (+31-70) 340-3016		Authorized officer Geivaerts, D

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/DK2004/000056

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
CH 429108	A	31-01-1967	AT 264102 B	26-08-1968
			DE 1509439 A1	13-02-1969
			GB 1081975 A	06-09-1967
			US 3289739 A	06-12-1966